

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 23, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-43 are currently pending, of which claims 21-43 have been withdrawn by virtue of the Restriction Requirement dated February 11, 2003. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the limitations “the multi domain” lack antecedent bases in claims 1, 10 and 16. Applicant respectfully submits that because each preamble of claims 1, 10 and 16 recites “[a] multi-domain liquid crystal display device”, the “multi-domain” limitations in these claims have proper antecedent bases. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (GB 2,343,012A) in view of Holmberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,216) or Byun et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,199); rejected claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. in view of Holmberg et al. or Byun et al. and den Boer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,656,824). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “each of the first and second sub-pixel regions has at least one slit pattern in the pixel electrode... a light shielding layer on the common electrode, the light shielding layer serving as a dielectric frame for the multi-domain and substantially surrounding each pixel region as well as the first and second sub-pixel regions” None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the prior art references when combined must at least teach or suggest all the claim elements. On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner states, “[w]ith respect to the newly added limitations, note that these limitations are also contained in the Kim et al. reference (see, for example, figs. 8a-8c).”

Claim 1 recites that each pixel region has first and second sub-pixel regions and a light shielding layer... serving as a dielectric frame for the multi-domain... [are] substantially surrounding each pixel region as well as the first and second sub-pixel regions. However, there is no evidence provided by the Examiner that each pixel region in Kim et al. has first and second sub-pixel regions, and that a light shielding layer serving as a dielectric frame for the multi-domain are substantially surrounding each pixel region as well as the first and second sub-pixel regions. As best understood, the dielectric frame 41 surrounds two pixel regions in Figs 8A and 8B and four pixel regions in Fig. 8C of Kim et al. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-9, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

For similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, claim 10 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 10 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "each of the first and second sub-pixel regions has at least one hole in the pixel electrode... a light shielding layer on the common electrode, the light shielding layer serving as a dielectric frame for the multi-domain and substantially surrounding each pixel region as well as the first and second sub-pixel regions" None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 and claims 11-15, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

For similar reasons as discussed with respect to claim 1, claim 16 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 16 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "each of the first and second sub-pixel regions has at least one hole or slit pattern in the pixel electrode... a light shielding layer on the common electrode, the light shielding layer serving as a dielectric frame for the multi-domain and substantially surrounding each pixel region as well as the first and second sub-pixel regions" None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 and claims 17-20, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.


Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would

further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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